



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE

RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT

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SUITE 102, FEDERAL BUILDING  
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SFH SECTION

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Rural Development TX AN No. 559 (3550)

December 21, 2001

SUBJECT: Section 502 and 504 Septic Systems

TO: All Offices  
USDA Rural Development, Texas

PURPOSE/INTENDED OUTCOME: This Administrative Notice (AN) is intended to clarify USDA Rural Development procedures for financing on-site sewerage disposal systems. Septic systems used on scattered sites are frequently an operating and maintenance problem. On sites with severe soil limitations, as determined from Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) soil surveys, a standard septic system historically will fail with time.

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS AN: This AN replaces Texas AN No. 536 (1944) which expired on September 30, 2001.

IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITIES: Septic systems financed by USDA Rural Development on sites with severe soil limitations, as defined in USDA-NRCS soil survey, will require special design and critical review by a USDA Rural Development loan approval official. This review is to protect the Government's security and is not intended to replace the approval and requirements of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC).

1. The Texas Administrative Code defines a "standard system" as a system that consists of a drainfield to disperse the effluent into adjacent soil (absorptive) or into the surrounding air through evapotranspiration (evaporation and transpiration). On standard systems designed for soils with severe limitations for absorptive drainfields, the following data shall be included in the design:

- a) Health authority or TNRCC approval of the system.
- b) Plot plans that include data given in Example Plot Plan No. 2, RD Instruction 1924-A, Exhibit C, Attachment 2.
- c) A site topography map showing the change in surface height over the total site area and slab elevation.

EXPIRATION DATE:  
November 30, 2002

FILING INSTRUCTIONS:  
HB 3550-1  
State Supplements

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Provider and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be  
sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, DC 20250-9410*

- d) A soil map by the USDA-NRCS, with the site located on the map.
- e) Soil classification and a description of the soil profile.
- f) Detail drawing (plans) and specifications of the proposed system. The drawings shall include appropriate dimensions for installation.
- a) A narrative description from the designer stating how this system will overcome the severe soil limitations on the site and that the design complies with the TNRCC requirements.
- g) When an absorption field is proposed on soils with a very slow rate of percolation, a minimum 30% increase in trench area will be required.

**It is not necessary to contact the State Office or provide written septic system documentation to the State Office unless you need additional assistance.**

If you have any questions, call the Single Family Housing section at (254)742-9770.

*/s/ Bryan Daniel*

BRYAN DANIEL  
State Director